

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENOA 00305 261042Z
ACTION OES-07

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FM AMCONSUL GENOA
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2254
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UNCLAS GENOA 0305

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, PLOS, UE, IT
SUBJ: ITALIANS EXPEL SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIP FROM GENOA

1. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE ITALIAN DEFENSE AND NAVAL MINISTRIES ORDERED SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIP, PASSAT, TO LEAVE GENOA EVENING OF MAY 25 FOR NON COMPLIANCE WITH ITALIAN PORT CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS. REPORTS NOTE THAT ITALIAN REGULATIONS REQUIRE SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIPS TO SEEK PERMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PRIOR TO ENTERING PORT. IN PASSAT S CASE, SHIP FILED REQUEST AFTER REACHING PORT IN EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MAY 25. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEFENSE MINISTRY NOTED THAT SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIPS HAD BEEN IGNORING THE ITALIAN REGULATIONS ENTERING ITALIAN PORTS WITHOUT ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST. THIS TIME THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES WERE NOT WILLING TO WAIVE PROCEDURES AND PERMIT THE PASSAT TO REMAIN IN GENOA.

2. BOTH LOCAL MORNING NEWSPAPERS, IL SECOLO XIX AND IL LAVORO, FEATURE STORY ON FRONT PAGES AND NOTE THAT PASSAT CARRIES SOPHISTICATED RADAR AND SONAR GEAR THAT IS TYPICALLY FOUND
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ON THE SOVIET 'SPY SHIPS' OPERATING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.
IL SECOLO SPECULATES THAT THE PASSAT HAD BEEN MONITORING THE NATO DAWN PATROL EXERCISES PRIOR TO ITS CALL AT GENOA.NORTON

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Message Attributes

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